Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 /121 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5390
TREASURY DEPT WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS TOKYO 2715

AMEMBASSY ROME

USEEC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, JA
SUBJECT: JAPAN'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IN JAN - PRELIMINARY
(CERP 0102)

1. SUMMARY: JAPAN'S CURRENT ACCOUNT SURPLUS, S.A., ROSE TO \$1.5 BIL IN JAN FROM \$1.0 BIL IN DEC 1977, ACCORDING TO PRE-LIMINARY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DATA RELEASED BY MINISTRY OF FINANCE (MOF) FEB 17. ON AN UNADJUSTED BASIS CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE DETERIORATED SHARPLY IN JAN, PRIMARILY REFLECTING SEASONAL SLOWDOWN OF EXPORTS, AND REGISTERED A DEFICIT OF \$0.2 BIL. (THE JAN 77 N.S.A. DEFICIT WAS \$0.7 BIL.) CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS, ON THE OTHER HAND, SWUNG TO NET INFLOW OF \$1.4 BIL IN JAN FROM THE NET OUTFLOW OF \$0.7 BIL IN DEC 77. OUTFLOW OF LONG-TERM UNCLASSIFIED

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CAPITAL SLOWED TO LESS THAN \$0.1 BIL FROM \$0.2 BIL IN DEC WHILE COMMERCIAL BANKS IN JAPAN RECORDED NET IMPORTS OF \$1.4 BIL IN SHORT-TERM FUNDS AFTER BEING ET EXPORTERS (\$0.4 BIL) IN DEC. IN LONG-TERM CAPITAL TRANSACTIONS, OUTFLOWS OF JAPANESE CAPITAL (PRIMARILY BANK LENDING ABROAD AND FOREIGN YEN BOND ISSUES) WERE STRONG IN JAN, BUT WERE NEARLY OFFSET BY HEAVY FOREIGN PURCHASES OF JAPANESE BONDS, MOF OFFICIAL SAID. END

SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE PRELIMINARY MOF DATA ON JAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IN MIL DOLLARS (IMF BASIS, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED). RECEIPTS ARE SHOWN AS PLUS: "MIN" INDICATES PAYMENTS:

DEC 77 JAN 78

REVISED PRELIMINARY

(1) CURRENT BALANCE 2,179 - 240

TRADE BALANCE 2,675 350

EXPORTS 8,449 5,580 IMPORTS -5,774 -5,230

SERVICES AND TRANSFERS - 496 - 590

(2) LONG-TERM CAPITAL - 235 - 40

(3) BASIC BALANCE 1,944 - 280

(4) NON-MONETARY SHORT-TERM

CAPITAL AND ERRORS AND

OMISSIONS COMBINED - 82 80

(5) OVERALL BALANCE 1,862 - 200

(6) COMMERCIAL BANKS SHORT-

TERM NET POSITION - 404 1,360

(7) OFFICIAL SETTLEMTNS

BALANCE 1,458 1,160

3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED MAJOR BALANCES AS FOLLOWS:

DEC 77 JAN 78

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REVISED PRELIMINARY

(1) CURRENT BALANCE 997 1,544
TRADE BALANCE 1,493 2,134
EXPORTS 6,885 7,540
IMPORTS -5,392 -5,406
(2) BASIC BALANCE 762 1,504

(3) OVERALL BALANCE 680 1,584

(4) OFFICIAL SETTLEMENTS

BALANCE 276 2,944

4. NOTE: RATES OF EXCHANGE USED BY MOF TO CONVERT TO DOLLAR BASIS WERE 241.56 YEN PER DOLLAR FOR DEC 1977 AND 241.06 YEN PER DOLLAR FOR JAN 1978.

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